AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1 (previously amended). A method for comparing two electrical signals, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) comparing the signals to each other and to at least one threshold to produce a binary representation of the comparisons;

(b) converting a plurality of binary representations into a first count; and

(c) comparing the first count to at least one count threshold.

2 (previously amended). The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein comparing step (a) includes the steps of:

comparing the signals in an analog comparator;

sampling the output of the comparator to produce said binary representation of the comparison.

3 (previously amended). The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein comparing step (c) includes the step of (d) providing a binary indication of the results of comparing the first count to at least one count threshold.

4 (original). The method as set forth in claim 3 and further including the step of:

(e) controlling a first accumulator and a second accumulator with said binary indication;

wherein the first accumulator counts consecutive binary indications of the same value; and

the second accumulator increments or decrements in accordance with the binary indication.

5 (original). The method as set forth in claim 4 and further including the step of:

(f) logically comparing the counts in the accumulators to produce a binary signal.

6 (original). The method as set forth in claim 5 wherein step (f) includes the steps of:

comparing the count in the first accumulator to a threshold and producing a first single bit representation of the comparison;

comparing the count in the second accumulator to a threshold and producing a second single bit representation of the comparison;

logically combining the first bit representation with the second bit representation.

7, 8 (canceled)